

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08700 201759Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04
INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01
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O P 201750Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8433
HQ USAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08700

HQ USAF FOR ATF

SECDEF FOR SECRETARY BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, GW
SUBJECT: AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN FRG

REF: BONN 08569
DTG 181629Z MAY 77

1. FURTHER TO MY EARLIER MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT (REF-TEL), I ASKED THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CALL ON STATE SECRETARY DR. SCHNELL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER MINISTER LEBER HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PROPOSE A DATE FOR THE AWACS DEMONSTRATION IN THE FRG. DR. SCHNELL SAID THAT HE RECALLED HIS CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL JONES VERY WELL, BUT HAD NOT INTENDED TO LEAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 08700 201759Z

THE IMPRESSION THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD DECIDED UPON AN OPPORTUNE DATE. UPON HIS RETURN TO BONN, DR. SCHNELL HAD CHECKED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S CALENDAR AND FOUND THAT ANY DATE BEFORE THE PARIS AIR SHOW WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

2. ANOTHER EMBOFF SPOKE WITH DR. MARTIN BLOCH, MINISTER

LEBER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE MINISTER HAD RELAYED A POSSIBLE DATE TO HIM. DR. BLOCH SAID THAT THE MINISTER HAD DEFINITELY NOT DONE SO. BLOCH THEN GAVE A STRONG WARNING AGAINST ANY HINT OF U.S. PRESSURE ON THE DEFENSE MINISTER OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF A U.S. "HARD SELL" APPROACH, EITHER OF WHICH COULD SET BACK THE AWACS PROGRAM BY YEARS. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. WAS QUITE WILLING TO FOLLOW MINISTER LEBER'S LEAD IN THIS MATTER AND ONLY WISHED TO BE SURE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE AWACS APPEARANCE AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW WAS NOT OVERLOOKED. BLOCH PROMISED TO BRING THIS TO MINISTER LEBER'S ATTENTION FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING (WHEN THE MINISTER WOULD NEXT BE IN HIS OFFICE) AND TO GIVE US THE MINISTER'S ANSWER. HE TOO FELT THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF A DEMONSTRATION TAKING PLACE ON MAY 31 AND JUNE 1 AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED.

3. I CONSIDER IT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE MAY 31-JUNE 1 DATES SHOULD BE DROPPED. EITHER I WILL HEAR DIRECTLY FROM MINISTER LEBER ON MONDAY, OR DR. BLOCH WILL TELEPHONE TO A MEMBER OF MY STAFF REPORTING THE MINISTER'S CURRENT VIEWS ON TIMING. CONSIDERING THE DELICATE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GERMANS ON THIS ISSUE AND THE KEY ROLE BEING PLAYED BY MINISTER LEBER, I SUGGEST NO FURTHER CONTACT BE MADE WITH THE GERMANS ON IT UNTIL I HEAR LEBER'S WISHES. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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